ARTH 200

Library Tutorial 1 of 2

Background information, books, exhibition catalogues
HELLO!

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Session Outline

1. **Overview:** welcome to the library!!

2. **Finding, accessing, and using:**
   
   I. **Websites**  
      appropriate for researching an artwork  
   
   II. **Encyclopedia/dictionaries**  
      to support preliminary research for your selected artwork  
   
   III. **Books & Exhibition Catalogues**  
      to provide more in-depth discussion & context for your selected artwork
What do librarians do, anyway?
Concordia Library 101:

Services & Amenities
Concordia Library 101

Concordia Library: Borrowing

- Library Card | Concordia Student ID
- Books: 30 books | 3 weeks (renewable)
- Video/Audio Recordings | 3 days
- Borrow Laptops (1 day) & Tablets (3 days)

Concordia Library: Accessing Online Resources

- On Campus | IP range, streamlined access
- Off Campus | Netname & Password

Interlibrary Loan

Requests: Colombo

[Types of Resources] Books, exhibition catalogues, articles, theses, some media, etc.

BCI Program

Obtain a BCI card @ Loans Desk

[Types of Resources] Print books (in person) from a local BCI research library
Concordia Library 101

**Concordia Library: Study Spaces**
- Group Study Rooms
- Presentation Practice Rooms

**Concordia Library: Getting Research Help**
- Live Chat
- Email or phone
- Ask Us/Reference Desk
- Subject Guides for discipline-specific resources
- Subject Librarians (me!)

**Concordia Library: Website Tour**
Assignment Scope: Part 1
Assignment Scope:

- Teach you how to thoroughly research an artwork, using different kinds of sources in the library.
- Encourages you to think critically about your selection of sources and to see research as a creative process.
- Teach you proper bibliographic formatting.

“Please be assured that you can get an A+ on this assignment even if nothing has been written about your selected artwork.”

- Can you find information about other works by the same artist, or others closely connected with them?
- Can you find information about the medium or technique used to make the piece?
- Can you find information about the historical context in which it was produced?
- Does this work belong to a particular style of art-making or class of objects?
Assignment Scope: Part I

1 Website:

- **Cover page:** citation, URL, person or organization responsible for site
- **1-2 sentences indicator of why you consider it reliable**
- Website printouts of relevant info, key passages highlighted

2 Encyclopedia or Dictionary Entries:

- **Cover page:** including citations for encyclopedia/dictionary entry I and II
- **Entry I:** photocopies of title page and up to 5 relevant pages, with key passages highlighted
- **Entry II:** photocopies of title page and up to 5 relevant pages, with key passages highlighted

2 Books or Exhibition Catalogues:

- **Cover page:** including citations for Book I and II
- **Book I:** photocopy of title page and up to 5 relevant pages, with key passages highlighted
- **Book II:** photocopy of title page and up to 5 relevant pages, with key passages highlighted
Finding Background Information

Encyclopedias, Dictionaries
Encyclopedias & Dictionaries

Art Encyclopedias & Dictionaries

- Book/set of books giving information on many subjects, or on many aspects of one subject
- Excellent starting point for doing research
- Provides background information and key concepts/dates
- Points you to further resources/writings on your topic
- Authoritative, reliable, scholarly information
- Content gets updated periodically

Online (there are more than these listed)

- **Oxford Art Online**
  - Grove Art Online
  - Encyclopedia of Aesthetics
  - Companion to Western Art +more

- **Oxford Reference**
  - American Art
  - Classical Art & Architecture
  - Islamic Art & Architecture
  - Materials and Techniques
  - Northern Renaissance Arts

Tip | Visit the ‘Background Information’ page of the Art History Subject Guide for links & more resources for recommendations to print encyclopedias and dictionaries relevant to your selected artwork.

Access | online encyclopedias/dictionaries is via the library catalogue or linked off the subject guide | print: reference collection, Webster Library
Encyclopedias & Dictionaries

A few at a glance...more suggestions

**Oxford Companion to Western Art**
- Written by art historians & specialists
- In-depth coverage of Western art
- Entries on: artists and their works, styles and movements, art forms/art terms

**Oxford Dictionary of Art Terms**
- Wide range of terms from the visual arts world
- Materials, techniques,
- Styles and periods

**Grove Encyclopedia of Decorative Arts**
- +3,000 entries covering decorative arts production
- Western and non-western cultures
- Definitions on art forms and styles
- Jewellery, furniture, textile, ceramics, etc.

**Oxford Companion to the Photograph**
- +140 contributors with expertise in the subject of photography
- Biographical entries
- 19th century - Present
Finding Information on the Free Web
Websites
Websites

Suggested websites:

- Artist’s Websites (contemporary/living artists)
- Gallery & museum websites
- Artist-run centres (art/research spaces developed by artists)
  Directory of Canadian Artist Run Centres [here](#)
- Educational sites

Google searching websites:
Use Google advanced search and limit to domain, or simple search with the word `site:` with the domain type (examples below)

- `site: edu` = educational sites
- `site: ca` = Canadian websites
- `site: org` = organizational websites

Other example websites:

- Centre for Canadian Contemporary Art ([CCCA](#))
  Includes a searchable database to find biographies and bibliographies of many contemporary Canadian artists.

- Canadian Women Artists History Initiative ([CWAHI](#))
  Includes a bio-bibliographic database of women artists born before 1925

Approximately 380 new websites are created every minute! It’s important to evaluate/assess sources used on the free web...
Evaluating Websites

1. **Authority:** reveals that the person or institution responsible for a site has the necessary knowledge to do so. Is it clear who developed the site/page? Is there contact information at all? Are there any credentials or personal background to the author?

2. **Purpose:** Checking the domain of the site usually indicates its purpose. Does the content support the purpose of the site? Is the information geared towards a specific audience (students, scholars, general reader?)

3. **Coverage:** Does the site claim to be selective or comprehensive? Are the topics explored in-depth? Compare the value of the site’s information to other similar sites. Do the links go to the outside rather than its own? Does the site provide information with no relevant outside links?

4. **Currency:** Currency refers to how the information is presented and how often the site is updated or maintained. Is it important to know when a site was created/last updated and if all the links are current.

5. **Objectivity:** Be aware of sites that may contain bias or do not admit its bias freely. Does the information try to sway the audience?

6. **Accuracy:** Does the reading you have already done on the subject make the information appear accurate? Is the information comparable to other sites on the same topic? Is a bibliography or reference list included? Is the author affiliated with a known, respectable institution?
Meryl McMaster

EDUCATION
2010 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Majoring in Photography, Ontario College of Art and Design University, Toronto, ON

SOLO EXHIBITIONS
2018 Meryl McMaster: Second Self/Ancestral, Pierre-François Ouellette Art Contemporain, Montreal, QC
Confluence, The Rooms, St. John’s, NL
Confluence, University of Lethbridge Art Gallery, Lethbridge, AB
2017 Threads of Self, Pierre-François Ouellette Art Contemporain, Montreal, QC
Entre-Deux Mondes – In-Between Worlds, Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, QC
Confluence, Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba, Brandon, MB

REVIEWS
Wine, Rachel “ Meryl McMaster exhibition confronts history of Indigenous representation”, Globe and Mail, May 22, 2028
Saxberg, Lynn “ Check out work by the New Generation Photography Award Winners”, Ottawa Citizen, April 12, 2018
Saxberg, Lynn “And the first New Generation Photography awards go to…”, Ottawa Citizen, March 13, 2018
Korducki, Kelli “Moving through Grief”, Canadian Art, February 8, 2018
Search Operators
What are these anyway?
Search Operators/Strategies

AND
Connects your concepts
Narrows your search
Italy AND 19th century AND painting

NOT
Excludes certain terms
Feminism NOT “third wave”

OR
Search similar terms/synonyms
Broadens your search
culture OR society
gender equality” OR feminism
Canada OR Montreal OR Quebc

* Searches all variations of a root word
Ital* = Italy, Italian, Italians
feminis* = feminism, feminist, feminist, feminisms

“ ” Searches 2+ words together
Known as a phrase search
“second wave feminism”
“Italian Renaissance”
“Leonardo da Vinci”
“Neo avant-garde”

Note:
These search operators can be used in the library catalogue to find books and media items, and in databases as well as search engines like Google Scholar.
Search Operators/Strategies

feminism OR “women’s rights” OR “gender equality” AND

paint* OR artist* OR photography OR performance

300

AND

55

850
Library Database: Search Operators

Advanced Keyword Search

Enter Search Terms

- Any Field: feminism or feminist or "gender equality"
- Any Field: photography or painting or sculpture or art
- And
- And
- And

Limit search to available items

Submit  Clear Form
Books & Exhibition Catalogues
Types of Books for Art History Research

Use a mix of academic & general publications

To determine if a publication is academic, check: author, publisher, approach (research or descriptive), and bibliographies.

Look at books on specific artists or object types as well as more general books to get context and overview.

For example, if you are researching the artist Mary Cassatt (1844-1926), you will probably want to consult documents on 19th century European and/or Impressionist painting to understand her work in context in addition to monographs.
Types of Books for Art History Research

1. Monograph

- Detailed text on a single specialized subject
- Based upon extensive research
- Usually a single author (specialist in a particular field)
- Language/writing style is scholarly rather than written for general readership
- Substantial bibliography/works cited (excellent for further reading & resources)

2. Edited Work (collection of essays and/or interviews)

- Books dedicated to specific subjects, themes, or artists
- More than 1 contributor/author
- Editors often solicit/anthologize essays by various authors/scholars and publish them in a group
Edited Work

Feminism and Art History Now

Edited by Victoria Horne and Lara Perry

PART I. WRITING | SPEAKING | STORYTELLING

1. An Unfinished Revolution in Art Historiography, or How to Write a Feminist Art History
   Victoria Horne and Amy Tobin

2. I Want a Dyke for President: Sounding out Zoe Leonard’s Manifesto for Art History’s Feminist Futures
   Laura Guy

   Cherry Smiley

Monograph

I’m Not Myself at All
Women, Art, and Subjectivity in Canada

Kristina Huneault

PART ONE - IDENTITIES

1. Absence
   Henrietta Hamilton, Demasduit, and the Settler-Colonial Encounter 25

2. Displacements
   Self and Home in the Art of Frances Anne Hopkins 65

3. Gaps
   Lived Experience and Cultural Narrative in Helen McNicoll’s Impressionist Canvases 103
Types of Books for Art History Research

3. Exhibition Catalogue

- Publication produced to accompany an exhibition
- Some exhibition catalogues contain critical texts/essays, others may be as short as a list of works on display
- Can be fruitful for finding extensive, contextual information about specific artworks
- Useful to gaining an understanding of an artist’s critical reception at a particular point in their artistic development

Search tip: Use a Subject search in the library catalogue using the “artist last name, first name exhibitions”
Belmore, Rebecca -- Exhibitions.

4. Catalog Raisonné

- Scholarly compilations of an artist’s body of work
- Comprehensive, annotated listings of all the known artworks by an artist either in a particular medium, or all media
- Typically contain each work's date(s), media, dimensions, provenance (sales & ownership history) and publication history

search tip: Use a subject search in the library’s catalogue using the artist’s last name, first name and look for “catalogs” or “catalogue raisonnés”
Wall, Jeff, 1946- -- Catalogues raisonnés.
"O’Keeffe, Georgia, 1887-1986--Catalogues raisonnés.
Catalogue Raisonné

Exhibition Catalogue
Finding/Saving Books at Concordia

Library Catalogue

WorldCat

Google Books
Finding Books: Library Catalogue

Library Catalogue
- Records for: books, journal titles, links to databases
- Search by: keyword (any), Author, Title, Subject heading
- Advanced search operators: AND ; OR ; NOT
- Import directly to RefWorks

Library call numbers
- N  Visual arts
- NA Architecture
- NB Sculpture
- NC Drawing. Design. Illustration
- ND Painting
- NE Print Media
- NK Decorative Arts
- NX Arts in general
- TR Photography
Finding Books: Library Catalogue

Keyword Search
- Keywords as natural language/concepts we use to search for information
- Keyword: Feminism AND art (602 results - some irrelevant)

Subject Search
- A descriptor that captures the 'essence of a topic'
- Controlled terminology to search a collection
- Similar to a #hashtag, but more professional and controlled, not created by library users

Tips for using Subjects
- Subject terms can be helpful to narrow down results, but they can also be limiting
- Start with a keyword search, and browse the Subject terms assigned to the first interesting result
- You can also search Subject headings in other library catalogues/systems that use LC classification
Finding Books: Google Books + Worldcat

**Google Books**
- 25 million books (citation, partial, or full scan)
- Search expansive index of full-text of books
- Check library catalogue or use ILL to access
- Excellent discovery tool as sometimes you find references to an artist at the page level, which would be missed otherwise

Example search: "Sophie Calle" performance

**WorldCat**
- Search many libraries at once for an item (72,000 libraries, including Concordia)
- Locate it in a library nearby or request the title through an Interlibrary Loan

Example search: Women Artists -- Canada
KOOP, Wanda. Canadian, 20th – 21st century, female. Painter, video artist. Wanda Koop is one of Canada's foremost contemporary artists. She graduated from the University of Manitoba School of Art in 1973. Her often monumental works are characterised by her apparently neutral, objective technique, depicting isolated figures of people, birds, submarines, factories, cities and landscapes.
2. Website: Wanda Koops’ artist website

“In much of her work, Koop explores the intersection of disparate materials, ideas and contexts—painting and photography, urbanism and the environment, technology and subjectivity—poetically examining ways in which one medium informs the other.

Koop considers herself a colourist first, and her skill as such is conveyed everywhere in the landscape and abstract works (highlighter yellow) and colour combinations (khaki and fuchsia) that a less confident and less skilled artist would never try, let alone use successfully.”
3. Website/Online: CCCA Database

Winnipeg, Manitoba
[Vancouver, British Columbia, 1951]

"...Wanda is an active and integral part of the Winnipeg arts community. She co-created the Rotterdam Apartment Cooperative in 1993 to help Canadian artists live and work in the Netherlands, with additional residencies in Canada for Dutch artists. In 1998, she founded Art City, a storefront art centre, whose goal is to bring together contemporary visual artists and inner-city youth to explore the creative process. Art City remains an integral part of Winnipeg's cultural life."
4. Library Catalogue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Availability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webster 4th Floor</td>
<td>N 6549 K66A4 2010</td>
<td>AVAILABLE</td>
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**Call Number**: N 6549 K66A4 2010

**Author**: Koop, Wanda, 1951-

**Title**: Wanda Koop: on the edge of experience / Mary Reid with essays by Josée Drouin-Brisebois and

**Publisher**: Ottawa : National Gallery of Canada, 2010.

**Description**: 164 p. : ill. (some col.) ; 21 x 27 cm.

**Note**: Issued also in French under title: Wanda Koop, sur le fil de l'expérience.

**Exhibition catalogue.**

"Winnipeg Art Gallery in collaboration with National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa"

**Bibliography**: Includes bibliographical references: p. 161-164.

**Subject Heading**: Koop, Wanda, 1951- -- Exhibitions.

**Alternate Author**:
- Laurence, Robin, 1950-
- Drouin-Brisebois, Josée, 1972-
- Reid, Mary, 1972
5. Google Books

"wanda koop" landscapes

Aspiring to the Landscape: On Painting and the Subject of Nature
https://books.google.ca/books?id=0802039943

Petra Halkes - 2006 - Preview

1.1 Wanda Koop, installation view, Paintings for Dimly Lit Rooms (*plate 1) 19.12 Wanda Koop, installation view, Paintings for Brightly Lit Rooms (*plate 2) 19.1. Wanda Koop, Video Scroll Poems 21 1.4 Wanda Koop, installation view, ...
(Check catalogue after discovering in Google Books)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Av</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ND 1352 C3H35 2006</td>
<td>A</td>
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</table>

- **Title**: Aspiring to the landscape: on painting and the subject of nature / Petra Halkes
- **Author**: Halkes, Petra, 1946-
- **Publisher**: Toronto: University of Toronto Press, c2006.
- **Format**: xii, 184 p., [16] p. of plates : ill. (chiefly col.) ; 24 cm.
- **Subjects**: Includes bibliographical references (p. [165]-176) and index.
- **Keywords**: Landscape painting, Canadian -- 20th century, Nature in art.
- **ISBN**: 0802038948 (bound) : $55.00

**Medium/materials or type of object:**
Painting, acrylic on canvas

**Country/Region:**
Canadian

**Time period:**
21st century

**Theme or subject:**
landscape or cityscapes

**Political or social context:**
native lands, nationalism, irony
Female Idol of "Dhokathismata" Type
1st half of 3rd millennium B.C.
Parian marble 19.9 x 6.8 x 2.5 cm

1. Start with specific keywords:
dhokathismata AND cycladic sculpture AND burial rites

2. If you don’t find information, broaden your search by using more general keywords, alternative keywords, or eliminating a keyword:
cyclad* AND sculpture AND “burial rites”

3. Do separate searches on main concepts and then bring together the ideas from your readings:

Search 1

- cyclad* sculptur*
- cyclad* art
- aegean sculptur*
- greece art

Search 2

- cyclad* and “burial rites”
- cyclad* and funerary rites
- greek and burial
Identify Key Concepts for Your Research

Remember - if you don’t find resources about a specific artwork, read about the work in a broader context, such as:

- Type of object
- Artist & his/her other works
- Other artists from the same art-historical period or style and schools
- Technical processes & materials used
- Subject matter represented in the artwork
- Social or historical context, etc.
Thank you!

Next week: LB-207
Periodical Literature
Database Searching

Questions?
Ask Us Desk | M-F: 9am-9pm, Sat-Sun: 12-5
Live Chat | M-F: 10am-9pm, Sat-Sun: 12-5

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